



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN PECOS

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, United States District Judge Robert Junell handed down sentences in several local cases.

Pedro Rodriguez-Picazo, a 30-year-old Mexican National, in charge of the Mexican Federal Agency of Investigations in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, was convicted of bulk cash smuggling and failure to report over \$10,000 in U.S. currency when leaving the United States on August 25, 2005. He was sentenced to two months of time served and forfeited \$14,088.93. This case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement out of Presidio, Texas

In a separate case, 20-year-old Miguel Angel Mendoza, Jr., and 19-year-old Heather Raquel Del Valle, both of Odessa, were sentenced to 46 months imprisonment for their involvement in the smuggling of over 3,000 pounds of marihuana out of the Big Bend National Park on July 21, 2005. Additionally, 21-year-old Omar Darren Sandoval, 20-year-old, Joshua Jovan Martinez, and 19-year-old, Octavio Gutierrez, Jr., all of Odessa, are pending sentence for their involvement in this offense. This case was investigated by Rangers of the Big Bend National Park, U.S. Border Patrol, and the Drug Enforcement Administration's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force (Alpine) and Drug Enforcement Administration (Midland).

In an unrelated case, 50-year-old Josephina Dominguez-Juarez, of Presidio, 29-year-old Guadalupe Venegas Zubia, and 23-year-old Arturo Garcia, both from the Ojinaga, area, were sentenced to 151 months, 120 months, and 46 months respectively, for their involvement in the smuggling of 2,600 pounds of marihuana that was stored at Dominguez-Juarez's residence in Presidio and seized in Midland, Texas on June 4, 2005. This case was investigated by Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force (Alpine), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Alpine and Presidio), with the assistance of the Drug Enforcement Administration (Midland) and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Additionally, 35-year-old Jaime Porras, of Fort Stockton, Texas, was convicted and sentenced for the distribution of cocaine and two counts of possession of a firearm during the sale of the cocaine. He was sentenced to 5 years for the cocaine charges and 5 years each for the weapon counts, for a total of 180 months. This case was investigated by Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force (Alpine), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Alpine).

Lastly, 31-year-old Tito Carrasco Rey, owner of Tito's Auto Repair in Midland, Texas, was sentenced to 70 months imprisonment for the possession with the intent to distribute almost 1300 pounds of marihuana on or about June 28, 2005. This case was investigated by Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force (Alpine), with the assistance of the Rangers of the Big Bend National Park, U.S. Border Patrol, Drug Enforcement Administration (Midland).

These cases were prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay Miller.

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